

Application No.: 10/632,195

Docket No.: JCLA7907-CA

REMARKS**Present Status of the Application**

Applicants appreciate that the Office Action consider claims 2, 5, 7 and 8 to be allowable.

The Office Action rejected claims 1, 3, 4 and 6 under 35 U. S. C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Wang et al. (U. S. Patent 5,901,086; hereinafter Wang). The Office Action also rejected claims 9-15 under 35 U. S. C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Fandrich et al. (U. S. Patent 5,519,847; Fandrich). Applicants have amended independent claim 1 to further recite the features in allowable claim 2. Claim 2 is then currently canceled. Applicants have added claim 23 to recite the additional features in allowable claim 5. Applicants have also amended independent claim 9 to recite the features originally recited in currently-cancelled claim 11. Claims 1, 2-10, 12-15 and 23 remain pending in the present application, and reconsideration of those claims is respectfully requested.

Discussion of Rejections from Office Action

1. The Office Action rejected claims 1, 3, 4, and 6 under 35 U. S. C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Wang. Applicants have amended independent claim 1 and added independent claim 23 to recite the features respectively from allowable claims 2 and 5. Claims 1, 2-8 and 23 are now in condition for allowance.

2. The Office Action also rejected claims 9-15 under 35 U. S. C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Fandrich. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections for at least the reasons set forth below.

In re Fandrich, Fandrich does not specifically disclose the three stages in one write

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operation as recited in currently amended claim 9, and the further details with respect to other dependent claims 12-15. In col. 6, lines 18-19, Fandrich clearly states the two-stage operation. In FIG 8, one write operation is done by "load plane A" (upper sequence T1-T2) and "program from plane A" (lower sequence T2-T3) in two-stage operation. The Office Action considers the lower sequence "Program from Plane (A or B) T3-T4" as the third stage. Applicants respectfully disagree. This would also contradict with the rejection with respect to claim 10, in which the office Action considers the lower sequence "Program from Plane (A or B) T3-T4" as the third write operation, but not the third stage in one full write operation. In other words, in order to complete the write operation on one sector, three stages are involved as recited in independent claim 9. Fandrich does not specifically disclose the operation in three stages.

Alternatively, Fandrich (col. 7, lines 15-42) discloses the flash memory has a page buffer 70. When the plane A of the page buffer 70 is programmed to the cell array 20 (col. 7, lines 8-9) at T2, the plane B may be loaded. Basically in this kind of operation, the page buffer is used to program the cell array. As a result, the data being loaded to the page buffer and the data in page buffer being programmed to the cell array are the detail for accessing the cell array. This operation does not disclose the first stage and the second stage of the present invention.

In other words, Fandrich discloses the operation between the controller and the memory array with a page buffer, which may be just like the third stage of the invention in one operation.

Therefore, Fandrich does not disclose the three-stage write operation, so as to proper overlapping the two operations in relating to the stages.

Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 1, 9, and 23 patently define over the prior art references, and should be allowed. For at least the same reasons, dependent claims 3-8, 10, and 12-15 patently define over the prior art references as well.

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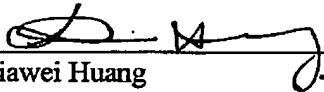
CONCLUSION

For at least the foregoing reasons, it is believed that all the pending claims 1, 2-10, 12-15 and 23 of the invention patentably define over the prior art and are in proper condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would expedite the examination of the above-identified patent application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

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